

STATEMENT OF REASONS

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

CHAPTER 3

BLACK BEAR HUNTING SEASONS

W.S. §23-1-302(a)(i) directs and empowers the Commission to fix seasons and bag limits, shorten or close seasons on any species or sex of wildlife for any type of legal weapon, except predatory animals, predacious birds, protected animals and protected birds, in any specified locality of Wyoming, and to give notice thereof.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission promulgates Chapter 3, Black Bear Hunting Seasons, to establish limitations on the take of black bears during the spring and fall hunting seasons.

Section 4. Edits are proposed to delete the legal hours to take a black bear and bag and possession limits since this information is already available in Commission Regulation Chapter 2, General Hunting Regulation. Additional edits have been made to information required at the time a harvested bear is registered.

Section 5. Edits have been made to allow for black bear bait site registrations at any Department Regional Office and covering all black bear hunt areas.

Section 6. Edits have been made to indicate which black bear hunt areas are closed to baiting, and the type of baits allowed.

Section 9. The term “quota” is being replaced with “limit”.

Section 10. The previous three year harvest information is not yet available at the time this draft regulation is being made available for public comment. Any additional proposed season date changes or annual female mortality limits will be made available to the public for comment during all public meetings held around the state. Hunt Area 12 has been added.

Section 13. Some hunt area boundary descriptions have been modified for clarification. A boundary description for the new Hunt Area 12 is being provided. Additional hunt area boundary descriptions may be modified pending analysis of harvest data.

Section 14. Savings Clause is being deleted in compliance with the Governor’s rules initiative.

Minor grammatical and formatting edits have been incorporated to provide additional clarity but do not change the intent of the rules and regulations.